





## NOTIFICATIONS.

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By Appointment.  
**KUHN & CO.**  
HONGKONG. YOKOHAMA.  
(Established, 1869).  
FINE ART  
CHRISTMAS SHOW.  
BROWN, JONES & CO.  
ITALIAN AND AMERICAN MARBLE  
MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS  
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METALLIC AND PORCELAIN  
WREATHS AND CROSSES.  
A SKILLED EUROPEAN STONEWORKER  
SUPERINTENDING ALL WORKS.  
PROMPT ATTENTION TO ORDERS FROM  
OVERSEAS PORTS.  
Hongkong, 7th August, 1891. 12492

A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LIMITED.

W. I. invite attention to our first supplies of  
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JORDAN ALMONDS, NOUGAT, BUTTER  
SCOTCH, ASSORTED TOFFIES,  
DEARIES, FRUIT, and a large selection  
of PURE CONFECTIONERY from the  
leading Manufacturers.

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PINE, APRICOT, CHERRY, LIME,  
GUAVA, and other FRUIT JELLIES in  
great variety.

TOM SMITH'S CHRISTMAS  
CRACKERS.

COLOURED OPALS mounted in Plugs,  
representing favorite subjects.

A large assortment of ENGLISH and JAPANESE  
CHRISTMAS CARDS, of hand  
some and artistic designs, suitable to all tastes  
and at moderate prices.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,  
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,  
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.  
Hongkong, 1st November, 1891. 119

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.  
Only communications relating to the news columns  
should be addressed to "The Editor."  
Correspondents are requested to forward their names  
and address with communications addressed to the  
Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good  
faith.  
All letters for publication should be written on one  
side of the paper only.  
Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should  
be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.  
After that hour the supply is limited.  
Telegraphic Address: Press. Telephone No. 12.

The Daily Press.  
HONGKONG, DECEMBER 27, 1891.

The report of the debate on the Civil Service at Monday's meeting of the Legislative Council will have been read with amusement by the frivolous and with pain by the thoughtful. The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD proposed that a commission should be appointed with full powers to enquire into and report on the working of all the Departments of the Government with the view to retrenchment, and to the desirability or otherwise of the redistribution of work, the amalgamation of certain offices, the increasing of the hours of the official day, privileges in the way of leave, &c. The proposal was received with more warmth than discretion by the Acting Colonial Secretary, who allowed himself to fall into a contemptuous tone very unbecoming to the dignity of his office. Mr. WHITEHEAD was told that his remarks were "sickening" and that gentlemen would not come out from England to join the Hongkong Civil Service "if they were to be entirely under the thumb of the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD." This is somewhat unusual language for the Hongkong Legislative Council, and possibly Mr. GOODHART himself would be rather surprised on reading his speech to find how far he had allowed himself to be carried away by the heat of the moment. Mr. WHITEHEAD's action may have been somewhat exasperating. He had been told that General BARKER, the Acting Governor, could not entertain such a resolution as that proposed by the hon. member when brought forward on the very eve of the arrival of a new Governor. Under the circumstances it might have been considered that it would have been more in the public interest to postpone the resolution for a week or two, and Mr. WHITEHEAD's action in bringing it forward on Monday might be construed as being dictated by a desire to annoy. However this may be, the hon. gentleman did not approach to anything in the nature of personal rudeness in his remarks and was entitled to expect civility in any reply that might be made to him. And in the resolution itself there was nothing that should have excited anger. In

the recitals with which it was prefaced there were statements and inferences which we do not think will command the assent of the general public, but that it would be a good thing if a commission were appointed to inquire into the working of the Civil Service is a proposition that hardly admits of dispute. Several such commissions have sat in England and it would be an excellent thing if the Civil Service of every country in the world were subjected to a close and formal investigation periodically.

General BARKER, whose remarks on Monday could not have been in better taste, endeavored to show that the Government was alive to its duty, and gave one instance in which he himself had recommended an amalgamation of offices. But while we have no doubt that his Excellency would speedily correct actions that obstructed themselves on his notice or suggest improvements that occurred to him, we think he would hardly claim to have conducted any searching and systematic investigation into the working of the Service with the view of ferreting out abuses and effecting economies. This is what is required, for we all know how apt things are to run on in the same groove long after the circumstances which may have made that groove at one time useful have changed. There ought to be no objection on the part of the Government to letting light in on the working of the Service. If no abuses or wastefulness are discovered so much the better, but if on the other hand it is found on investigation that economy can be effected or efficiency be promoted by making certain changes surely no one will deny that those changes ought to be made. Mr. WHITEHEAD, however, in the recitals to his resolution and in his speech fell into the error of exaggeration. He might have spared us the ancient joke about the sad fate of the island of St. Thomas, which is surely entitled by this time to be ranked as "a chestnut." Passing this by, however, we come to the serious part of the matter. It does not necessarily follow that because new appointments are continually being made those appointments are unnecessary. It is not to be expected that a Colony with a population of two hundred and twenty thousand can be administered with the same staff or for the same cost as when its population was only half that number. Concurrently with the increase in the staff of the Government Service we have seen an increase in the staff of the Banks and the other commercial institutions. Turning to the Director we see that whereas the staff of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at the Hongkong branch numbered twenty in 1881, in 1891 it numbered thirty-five. Mr. WHITEHEAD also adopted his usual lugubrious tone with regard to the financial outlook, on which point he was to some extent supported by the Hon. J. J. KIEWITZ, who says that our revenue is not elastic, rather a vague term. It is true the Colony has been touched by the depression that has of late been experienced in almost every commercial centre in the world, but to our mind few places have a more cheerful outlook than Hongkong.

Our geographical position and the large and as yet very imperfectly exploited markets by which we are surrounded, the trade of this Colony is bound to increase and there is nothing extravagant in the prediction that its population will within the next twenty-five years reach half a million. No reasonable man can take stock of our conditions and fail to come to the conclusion that the place is bound to grow. It is important that we should not unduly discount the future and increase our expenditure beyond what is warranted by the natural growth of the Colony, but with an increasing trade and growing population we may be satisfied that the revenue will suffice to meet the legitimate demands made upon it. Mr. KIEWITZ says the revenue is not elastic because we have not those numerous sources of income which are found elsewhere; but it should not be forgotten that this is only because we have not thought fit to tap those sources, and we hope they never will be tapped. If our aim were simply to secure elasticity of revenue we might resort to Custom duties, tonnage dues, income tax, and various other sources of revenue which are made use of in other places. Increased taxation, however, would strike more or less severely at the prosperity of the Colony, and it is therefore of importance that the cost of Government should be kept as low as is reasonably possible. But some expenditure of course there must be. Mr. KIEWITZ, although he thinks the revenue is not elastic, fully recognizes this fact and says he does not think a shrinkage is to be feared to that point at which our necessary expenditure will be in excess of our revenue. We do not think there will be any permanent shrinkage at all; fluctuations there may and no doubt will be, but the general tendency must inevitably be towards expansion, even without tapping new sources. If the Crown lands had been properly administered from the foundation of the Colony it might never have been necessary to levy a penny of taxation of any kind whatsoever. That, however, is another question, which it is unnecessary to enter upon now. In advocating the economical administration of the Civil Service we do so, not like Mr. WHITEHEAD, because we think the Colony is on the verge of ruin, but because we hold that the ratepayers, whether the Colony be prosperous or otherwise, have a right to get full value for their money and because economical government is a principle to be supported on its own merits independent of fortuitous circumstances.

The *Wonging*, the Indo-China Co.'s new steamer, passed the Canal on her way to Hongkong last week.

The Agents (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire) inform us that the O. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Agamemnon* left Singapore on the afternoon of the 26th inst. and may be expected here on or about the 28th inst.

The N. O. Daily News says:—All foreigners in the employ of the Japanese Government, the Shanghai Consulate included, have received notices that their services will not be required after the 31st inst.

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## STEERING IN PORT

**PAKING, British steamer, 1,011, Long, Nov. 22,**  
C. S. M. S. N. Co.  
**Pekin, British steamer, 1,153, P. Harris, Nov. 22,**  
P. & O. S. N. Co.  
**Princess, German steamer, 4,940, Reimknecht, Dec. 1**  
**Meichers & Co.**  
**Frederick, British steamer, 1,862, Wilding, Dec. 1**  
**Butterfield & Swire**  
**Raceta, British steamer, 2,659, Chas. Gadd, Nov. 13,**  
P. & O. S. N. Co.  
**Salat, British steamer, 2,122, A. Paul, Nov. 27,**  
Messageries Maritimes  
**Shanghai, British steamer, 332, Maher, Aug. 10,**  
Hosking, Dunn & Co.  
**Tam, British steamer, 1,119, Daniel, Dec. 2,**  
Butterfield & Swire  
**Toosan, Chinese steamer, 333, Yarrow, Dec. 3,**  
C. M. S. N. Co.  
**Yunching, Chinese steamer, 751, Lowe, Dec. 3,**  
C. M. S. N. Co.

**NAGASAKI.**  
**In Port on 23rd December, 1891**  
**Asagao, Japanese steamer, 1,655, Saich, Dec. 1,**  
Mitsui Bishi Colliery  
**Cape City, German steamer, 355, Aallie, Dec. 1,**  
C. E. Boedinghaus  
**Chong, Amer. bark, 438, Weatherall, Sept. 20,**  
Chong  
**Hio-gan, Japanese steamer, 397, Oct. 15, Nippon**  
**Yusen Kaisha**  
**Kosai-maru, Barge, 400, Christensen, Nippon**  
**Yusen Kaisha**

**KORE.**  
**In Port on 1st December, 1891**  
**Austria, British bark, 1,150, Robinson, Nov. 14,**  
O. O. Reimers & Co.  
**Glanborough, British bark, 1,561, Waring, Nov.**  
O. O. Reimers & Co.  
**Hawcutt, British steamer, 1,615, Peters, Nov. 23,**  
D. Wall, Carill & Co.  
**Johann, German steamer, 427, H. Bing, Nov. 13,**  
Johann  
**Marquis of Lorne, British bark, 1,143, Vickery,**  
Aug. 21, Master  
**Tsung-mang, Japanese steamer, 734, Devonish, Nov. 29,**  
Messageries Maritimes  
**Vanatie, British steamer, 1,697, Greeny, N. S. 30,**  
P. & O. S. N. Co.  
**Valera, British steamer, 1,376, Seymour, Nov. 29,**  
Messageries Maritimes  
**Waka oca-maru, Jap. steamer, 1,834, Fraser, Nov.**  
Nippon Yusen Kaisha

**YOKOHAMA.**  
**In Port on 23rd November, 1891**  
**Audremond, British steamer, 1,322, Carter, Nov. 13,**  
Fraser, Carter & Co.  
**Ardor, British bark, 49, Wilcox, Nov. 20,**  
Master  
**Diamond, German bark, 74, Peterson, Nov. 3, Master**  
**Nautilus, British bark, 94, Shanks, Nov. 19,**  
Eastern Wharfedale Co.  
**Norris, British bark, 82, Nicol, D. Fraser**  
**Sikh, British steamer, 2,735, J. A. Miley, Nov. 19,**  
H. O. Com. O. G. Bell & Co.  
**Sokoto, British bark, 2,153, Vanchand, N. v. 17**  
O. J. Trading Co.

**BANGKOK.**  
**In Port on 1st November, 1891**  
**Anglo, Italian bark, 636, Adyfar, Aug. 31,**  
Byres Company  
**Ba, Pan, British bark, 874, Borath, Nov. 5,**  
Hook Pk.  
**Chang, Chinese, Siam bark, 658, Hoob, Nov. 18,**  
Soo Ma Sang  
**Orion, Nor. bark, 639, Sormorio, Oct. 26,**  
Olinke & Co.  
**Quon, British bark, 518, Siamosa bark, 426, S. mear,**  
July 25, Master  
**Secton, New, bark, 190, Midam, Oct. 11,**  
Windor & Co.  
**Therapion, Russian ship, 95, Wincoeter,**  
Noyah Bros & Co.

**GER. BRITANNIA MAIL-STEAMSHIP CO.**  
**IN THE CHINA SQUADRON.**  
**Alcester, 4, steel-hulled cruiser, 4 guns, 3,160**  
Tons, Com. C. O. G. Adm. at Yokohama  
**Archon, cruiser, 6 guns, 3,493 h.p., Com. F.**  
Perds, at Hankow  
**Caroline, cruiser, 14 guns, 1,440 h.p., Capt. Wm.**  
at Hongkong  
**Esperia, iron-ruled ship, 1,400 h.p., M. Field, at**  
Hongkong  
**Kek, double-screw gunboat, 3 guns, 340 h.p., in**  
reserve at Hongkong  
**Florence, composite gunboat, 4 guns, 450 h.p.,**  
Lieut. C. J. Baker, at Northwang  
**Esperanza, cruiser, 9 guns, 1,190 h.p., Capt. E.**  
W. Craigie, at Singapore  
**Imperial, British bark, 1,370 h.p., 16,000 h.p.,**  
Com. Edmund S. Poo, at Hongkong  
**Leander, cruiser, 10 guns, 5,500 h.p., Com.**  
R. W. Wainwright, at Hongkong  
**Lionet, gunboat, 5 guns, 1,350 h.p., Com. V. D.**  
Tindall, at Shanghai  
**Macory, cruiser, 13 guns, 2,930 h.p., Capt.**  
at Hongkong  
**Peacock, cruiser, 18 guns, 7,910 h.p., Lieut.-Comd.**  
Ingram, at Shanghai  
**Pigmy, gunboat, 4 guns, 1,300 h.p., Lieut.-Comd.**  
at Hongkong  
**Flower, Com. C. O. G. Adm. at Yokohama, 1,370 h.p.,**  
L. K. Bell, at Northwang  
**Porpoise, steel-torpedo cruiser, 6 guns, 3,590**  
h.p., Com. C. L. Barr, at Hongkong  
**Reynolds, British bark, 1,370 h.p., 16,000 h.p.,**  
Com. J. G. Heath, at Singapore  
**Radiant, gunboat, 3 guns, 1,200 h.p., Lieut.-Com.**  
F. Freeman, at Shanghai  
**Seymour, British bark, 5 guns, 4,000 h.p., Capt. W.**  
H. Hall, at Kobe  
**Solent, torpedo mining launch, at Hongkong**  
**Swift, double-screw r.v., 2 guns, 1,010 h.p.,**  
Com. R. B. B. at Hongkong  
**Twoed, double-screw gun-rudder, 3 guns, 340 h.p.,**  
in reserve at Hongkong

**Victor, American, covering ship, 20 guns, Com.**  
Edmond E. at Hongkong  
**Ward, French ironclad, 4,450, in reserve, at**  
Hongkong

**FOREIGN MEN-OF-WAR ON THE**  
**CHINA AND JAPAN STATIONS.**  
**Admiral Korshak, Russian cruiser, Capt.**  
Aladenief, at Vladivostok  
**Alert, Amer. corr., 6 guns, Capt. E. D. Hitch-**  
cock, at Shanghai  
**Alexandria, German cruiser, Capt. Schneider,**  
at Shanghai  
**Alliance, Amer. corr., Comd. Felix McGraw,**  
at Shanghai  
**Apinio, French gunboat, 4 guns, Capt. Courant,**  
at Yungtiao  
**Bobra, Russian cruiser, 13 guns, 1,100 h.p.,**  
Capt. Boria, at Vladivostok  
**Charles, Amer. corvette, 5 guns, Capt. Roray,**  
at Yokohama  
**Comete, French gunboat, Lieut. Martin, at**  
Shanghai  
**Dia, Portuguese g.-bt., 5 guns, 700 h.p., Captain**  
M. A. Gomez, at Asioao  
**Hile, German gunboat, 4 guns, 4,510 h.p., Capt.**  
Aether, at Shanghai  
**Inconcord, French gunboat, Capt. Jouglares,**  
at Shanghai  
**Korveta, Russian gunboat, 6 guns, 1,200 h.p.,**  
at Shanghai  
**Krasnaya, Russian corvette, 6 guns, 1,200 h.p.,**  
Capt. Iostovskoy, at Vladivostok  
**Leipzig, German cruiser, Captain Rotzger, at**  
Shanghai  
**Lutia, German g.-bt., Com. Nenny, at Bangkok**  
**Mandjir, Russian cruiser, 7 guns, Comd. Kari,**  
at Shanghai  
**Marion, Amer. corvette, 4 guns, Capt. J. R.**  
Johnson, at Yokohama  
**Monaco, Amer. gun-vessel, 6 guns, Com. M. L.**  
Johnson, at Yungtiao  
**Neyssudin, Russian cruiser, 9 guns, 255 h.p.,**  
Capt. Zarie, at Vladivostok  
**Palos, Amer. gunboat, 6 guns, 500 h.p., Lieut.-**  
Com. J. Marston, at Shanghai  
**Paulat Auer, Russian cruiser, O. p. S. Bayer,**  
at Yokohama  
**Parana, French cruiser, Capt. Fourcat, at**  
Shanghai  
**Reiver, French g.-bt., Capt. Lura, at Hongkong**  
**Rodriguez, Spanish cruiser, O. p. Englishes,**  
at Manila  
**Slovich, Russian cruiser, 18 guns, Capt. A.**  
Flak-hin, at Hankow  
**Spencer, German cruiser, Captain Herbing, at**  
Nanking  
**Suzanne, Amer. corvette, Com. F. H. Cooper,**  
at Yokohama  
**Triumphante, French frigate, Capt. Corvulier**  
at Yokohama  
**Valasco, Spanish cruiser, 4 guns, Capt. Jose**  
Fernandez, at Shanghai  
**Vilna, French cruiser, Captain Thomson, at**  
Shanghai  
**Vigore, French gunboat, 4 guns, 100 h.p., Capt.**  
Constable, at Kueibang  
**Vladimir Monomach, Russian cruiser, Captain**  
Dobrovolov, at Vladivostok  
**Volskoy, Italian cruiser, Comd. Boyoh, at**  
Shanghai  
**Vostok, Rus. g.-bt., 4 guns, Com. Molchotsky,**  
at Yokohama  
**Wolf, German gunboat, 2 guns, 310 h.p., Lieut.-**  
Com. Helfhof, at Hankow